

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 OES-06  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEAE-00 /081 W  
-----301435Z 052405 /42

P R 301235Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3351  
INFO DOD WASHDC  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5380

DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EWWT, EG  
SUBJECT: GOE REQUEST THAT US NAVY DO HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY  
IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: CAIRO 4709 AND PREVIOUS

1. FAHMY ASKED ME TO CALL TODAY. AMONG OTHER THINGS,  
HE PRESENTED ME WITH "MEMORANDUM" ASKED THAT U.S. NAVY  
UNDERTAKE HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY IN GULF OF SUEZ. COSTS  
SHOULD BE DEFRAIDED THROUGH AID FUNDS. FAHMY EXPLAINED  
THAT BOTH GAMASY AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAVE APPROVED  
REQUEST. FAHMY COMMENTED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR  
WILLINGNESS TO DO HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY MIGHT BE USEFUL  
IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING SADAT VISIT. IT WOULD  
DEMONSTRATE THAT SOMETHING TANGIBLE HAS COME OUT OF  
VISIT.

2. TEXT OF EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOLLOWS:  
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QUOTE THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND THE MINISTRY OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT HAVE PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NAVIGATION  
SYSTEM IN THE GULF OF SUEZ AND AT THE ENTRANCE TO PORT  
SAID IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA THAT  
CORRESPONDS WITH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR SAFETY AND  
SECURITY OF INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION.

THE PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASING VOLUME OF PASSAGE IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OIL COMPANIES DRILLING FOR OIL IN THE GULF OF SUEZ WHICH DEPEND LARGELY ON FIXED AND MOVABLE INSTALLATIONS, AND THE ARRIVAL OF SUPER TANKERS AS A RESULT OF THE OPERATION OF THE SUMED PIPELINE BETWEEN EIN EL SOKHNA AND SIDI KREIR.

THE PROJECT CAN BE SUMMARIZED IN THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. THE DELINEATION OF TWO CHANNELS, FOR NAVIGATION ONE FOR SOUTH BOUND VESSELS THE OTHER FOR NORTH BOUND VESSELS, OF LENGTH OF APPROXIMATELY 163 MILES AND WIDTH BETWEEN 1.7 TO 6.5 MILES FOR VESSELS WITH A DEEP DRAUGHT. THIS WOULD INCLUDE CLEARING THE CHANNELS OF ANY OBSTACLES.
2. THE DELIMITATION OF AN AREA OR LINE SEPARATING THE TWO CHANNELS, OF WIDTH REACHING 1.9 MILES.
3. THE UNDERTAKING OF A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED NAVIGATION CHANNEL ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE SUEZ GULF.
4. THE UNDERTAKING OF COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY FOR A PROPOSED NAVIGATION CHANNEL IN THE NORTHERN ENTRANCE OF PORT SAID FOR VESSELS OF DEEP DRAUGHT.

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5. SUPPLYING MODERN NAVIGATION FACILITIES ALL ALONG THE GULF OF SUEZ, ACCORDING TO WHICH THE VESSELS WILL RESTRICT THEIR PASSAGE TO THE SPECIFIED NAVIGATION CHANNELS.

6. TIME OF EXECUTION, OF PROJECT APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS.

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE HAS ALREADY CONTACTED THE AMERICAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN THIS CONNECTION. HE EXPRESSED THE UNITED STATES' AGREEMENT TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT IF SUCH A PROPOSAL IS OFFICIALLY SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNQUOTE

3. WHEN RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON, I WAS TOLD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELD BETWEEN US NAVY, AID AND STATE ON POSSIBLE GOE REQUEST DO GULF OF SUEZ HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY AND THAT US NAVY PREPARED

TO DO SO IF AID FUNDING AVAILABLE. FURTHER ACTION HAD  
TO AWAIT FORMAL GOE REQUEST, WHICH WE NOW HAVE.  
RECOMMEND WE PROCEED TO FINALIZE MATTER WITH A  
VIEW TO ANNOUNCING IT DURING SADAT VISIT.

4. LAST PARA OF EGYPTIAN MEMORANDUM IS INCORRECT.  
ALTHOUGH DATT HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH MOD AND INDICATED  
TO LATTER THAT DETAILED SCOPE OF PROPOSED WORK NECESSARY  
IN ORDER TO PERMIT USG TO STUDY THE SUBJECT, HE AT NO  
TIME EXPRESSED USG'S AGREEMENT TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT.  
NOTWITHSTANDING INCORRECT EGYPTIAN CONTENTION, WE  
BELIEVE THAT THE PROJECT IS A GOOD ONE AND THAT US  
NAVY CAN DERIVE CERTAIN VALUABLE BENEFITS FROM BEING  
PERMITTED TO PERFORM IT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009